

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: **January 11, 2023**

Fall Study: Standing Fast in the Last Days: A Study of 2 Peter, 2 & 3 John, and Jude

AN INTRODUCTION TO SECOND PETER

1. This letter is the most _____ of all New Testament epistles. Why?
The marked difference in literary style & the prevalence of pseudo-epistles in the mid-second century (the Apocalypse of Peter, the Gospel of Peter, the Acts of Peter) help explain the slow acceptance of the epistle. Based on strong internal evidence, the test of time and integrity, the church accepted Peter as the author of the epistle.
2. The recipients of this letter are not _____ identified.
Peter indicates that this is his “second letter” to the same readers (3:1). Based on this statement, it’s likely that the intended audience was the same as the audience addressed in First Peter. Both are general letters intended for a wide audience. The conditions described are specific to the readers but are symptomatic of conditions in the church at large. Second Peter was apparently intended for Jewish & Gentile Christians in Asia Minor (see 1 Peter 1:1).
3. The _____ in this letter is _____ from that in the first.
First Peter focuses on _____ sources of hardship, such as a pagan society & an increasingly unsympathetic emperor. Second Peter, on the other hand, is concerned with _____ sources of corruption, namely, false prophets who are deceitfully gaining footholds in local congregations.
4. Occasion:
 - A. Peter’s approaching _____ (1:13-14; cp. John 21:18-19)
 - B. The _____ of False Teachers (2:1-3).
What was the heresy? It is simple _____ (against law or regulations). Christian liberty has always faced the dual threat of (1) _____ on the one hand, and (2) _____ on the other. See Galatians 3:3; 5:1-26.
5. Date:
Authorship by Peter requires a date no later than A.D. 68, the year of Nero’s death (June 6). Nero unleashed his campaign of terror against Christians in Rome the later part of A.D. 64. Second Peter was written toward the end of Peter’s life (1:12-15), after he had written a prior letter (3:1). His death, therefore, occurred between A.D. 65 and 68.
6. Distinctive Features:
 - A. _____. See 1:20-21 and 3:15-16. These are key passages on the doctrine of inspiration. Along with 2 Timothy 3:16 they explain the nature & origin of the Scriptures.
 - B. _____. This epistle begins and ends with this subject (1:2; 3:18).
 - C. _____. This epistle provides the most comprehensive description of license to be found in the NT (see 2:1-22).
 - D. _____ of _____. Peter divides history into three distinct _____ (3:4-13).
 - E. _____. Peter exhibited a flare for unusual words when he penned this letter. 2nd Peter has the highest number of words that appear only once in the NT, called *hapax legomena*, and of those 54 words, 32 are not even found in the Septuagint (Greek trans. of Hebrew OT).

THE MESSAGE OF SECOND PETER

To warn against false teaching, moral compromise, and doctrinal error in the last days; and to admonish believers to grow in the *knowledge* of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (1:2; 3:18).

1. Introduction (1:1-2)
2. To _____ Christian Growth (1:3-21)
 - A. _____ for growth are _____ (1:3-4)
 - B. _____ to grow is _____ (1:5-7)
 - C. _____ for growth are _____ (1:8-11)
 - D. _____ to grow are _____ (1:12-15)
 - E. In verse 11, Peter speaks of receiving “a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.” How can we be sure that Jesus is coming and that He will establish His kingdom on earth? **In verse 16-21** Peter gives two reasons why we can be sure of our Lord’s coming.
 - 1) The testimony of _____ (1:16-18; cp. Matthew 16:28-17:8)
 - 2) The _____ of God’s Word (1:19-21)
3. To _____ False Teachers (2:1-22)

Peter’s readers faced immediate danger. The danger Peter’s readers faced was different now than when he wrote First Peter. In First Peter, *the danger* was from _____. In Second Peter, *the danger* Christians faced was from _____ the church; from false teachers.

 - A. The _____ of False Teachers (2:1-3a)
 - B. The _____ of False Teachers (2:3b-9)
 - C. The _____ of False Teachers (2:10-22)
4. To _____ _____ (3:1-16)
 - A. Believers _____ it (3:1-2)
 - B. Scoffers _____ at it (3:3-7)
 - C. God _____ it (3:8-9)
 - D. Peter _____ it (3:10-13)
 - E. Behavior _____ to be _____ by it (3:11, 14-16)
5. Conclusion (3:17-18)

Peter’s Thesis: Guard the truth & yourselves against error by growing in the grace & knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY OF SECOND PETER

The purpose of Second Peter is to call Christians to *spiritual growth* so that they can *combat apostasy* as they look forward to *the Lord’s return*!